Alberta

Quarterly Population Report

Fourth Quarter - 2011

March 21, 2012

Population Estimates*

As of January 1, 2012, Alberta's population was estimated to be 3,817,980, an increase of 75,787 people from the year before (Table 1). For the year ending January 1, Alberta's population growth rate climbed to 2.03%, up from 1.36% the previous year. Alberta has resumed its role as population growth leader in Canada, recording the highest calendar year growth amongst the provinces for the first time since January 1, 2009. In the fourth quarter of 2011 Alberta's population increased by 0.51%, adding 19,189 people. Alberta saw the highest quarterly growth in Canada, followed by Saskatchewan (0.38%) and Manitoba (0.29%).

The national population increased by 1.10%, adding over 375,000 people from a year ago (Table 1). Among the provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the highest annual growth rates, with 2.03%, 1.62% and 1.26% respectively (Table 2). Over the last year, three regions either lost residents or had stable populations: Northwest Territories (-0.64%), Nova Scotia (-0.03%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (0.00%).

Migration

Migration from all sources accounted for about 64% of Alberta's quarterly population growth.

During the fourth quarter of 2011 (October to December), Alberta gained 6,010 interprovincial migrants (Table 3), compared to 2,510 in the same period last year, and a quarterly net loss of over 2,200 in 2009 (Table 5). Except for Saskatchewan, where interprovincial inflows were balanced with outflows, all regions other than Alberta experienced net outflows of interprovincial migrants. Quebec saw the largest net outflow of 1,246, followed by Nova Scotia (-1,143), Ontario (-1,084) and Manitoba (-1,004) (Table 4).

Alberta welcomed residents from every province, with net inflows almost double those of the third quarter of 2011 (Table 4). Ontario contributed the most (2,022) to Alberta's net interprovincial gain, followed by British Columbia (915), Saskatchewan (637) and Nova Scotia (631).

In the fourth quarter of 2011, net international migration contributed a third of the recorded growth in the provincial population. The 8,305 permanent residents who settled in Alberta from October to December represented a 25% jump from a year ago (Table 5), and the fourth highest quarterly level over the past four decades. The net flow of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs)[1] moderated in the fourth quarter, down to 105 from 2,295 in the third quarter. However, this drop was not unexpected since the net number of NPRs tends to be smaller in the last quarter of the year. Furthermore, the net gain in NPRs was a significant turnaround from the net outflow of 6,794 during the same period last year. A total of 6,297 net international migrants, including NPRs, moved to Alberta during the fourth quarter of 2011(Table 3). This was the highest fourth quarter net international migration since 2008, a significant turnaround from the low of 2010.

Compared to the calendar year of 2010, Alberta received over double the number of migrants in 2011 (Table 5), due to a recovery in the number of NPRs and a strong inflow of migrants from other parts of Canada. At over 19,000, net interprovincial migration in 2011 reached a level not seen since 2008 and was over four times the 2010 net inflow. The net number of NPRs in Alberta showed a big recovery from a 2010 net outflow of almost 10,000 to post a net inflow of about 3,000 in 2011.

TABLE 1: POPULATION & GROWTH RATES, CANADA & ALBERTA

	Population			Yearly Growth Rate	
1-Jan	Canada	Alberta	1-Jan	Canada	Alberta
2007	32,737,701	3,471,715	2007	1.06%	2.96%
2008	33,105,036	3,545,519	2008	1.12%	2.13%
2009	33,511,658	3,632,280	2009	1.23%	2.45%
2010	33,912,881	3,691,866	2010	1.20%	1.64%
2011	34,293,518	3,742,193	2011	1.12%	1.36%
2012	34,670,352	3,817,980	2012	1.10%	2.03%

TABLE 3: QUARTERLY COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN ALBERTA

Population October 1, 2011		**3,798,791**
Interprovincial Migration		6,010
plus	Interprovincial Arrivals	18,819
minus	Interprovincial Departures	12,809
International Migration		6,297
plus	Immigrants	8,305
minus	Net Emigrants*	2,113
plus	Non-Permanent Residents	105
Natural Increase		6,882
plus	Births	12,935
minus	Deaths	6,053
Population January 1, 2012		3,817,980

*includes emigrants, net temporary emigrants and returning emigrants

TABLE 2: POPULATION OF PROVINCES/TERRITORIES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012 & GROWTH RATES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2011

	Canada	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Population	34,670,352	511,036	145,883	945,532	756,030	8,013,073	13,445,408	1,258,260	1,067,612	3,817,980	4,597,919	34,886	43,346	33,387
Growth Rate	1.10%	0.00%	0.68%	-0.03%	0.18%	0.92%	1.10%	1.26%	1.62%	2.03%	1.01%	1.44%	-0.64%	1.52%

*All data are from Statistics Canada

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Natural Increase

Natural increase (births minus deaths) continues to be a significant driver of population growth for Alberta. Between October 1 and December 31 of 2011, it contributed 6,882 people to Alberta's population, the result of 12,935 births and only 6,053 deaths. Over the quarter, the provincial population grew by 0.18% due to natural increase, the highest rate of all the provinces, and more than twice the national average rate of 0.08%. Alberta's elevated natural increase is largely due to its higher birth rate, although the younger age structure of the province also leads to a lower death rate than the Canadian average.

TABLE 4: ORIGIN & DESTINATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
NL	0	13	108	75	26	551	66	10	845	88	0	7	0
PEI	21	0	181	72	48	332	0	16	214	102	0	0	0
NS	197	142	0	565	189	1,315	67	130	1,118	308	0	33	23
NB	129	102	472	0	472	484	40	83	738	151	0	5	0
QC	15	8	116	359	0	3,842	90	94	969	617	14	23	20
ON	593	143	1,109	796	2,924	0	849	899	5,305	2,450	30	36	0
MB	20	17	75	90	141	1,068	0	503	1,046	911	0	0	13
SK	19	0	48	31	54	603	562	0	2,562	585	0	21	0
AB	439	75	487	365	464	3,283	712	1,925	0	4,829	55	156	19
BC	104	18	261	145	505	2,413	442	793	5,744	0	156	20	0
YT	0	0	9	0	64	82	29	25	11	101	0	10	0
NT	24	0	18	42	19	46	23	8	267	94	50	0	27
NU	29	0	60	0	15	31	0	0	0	12	0	36	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
In Migration	1,590	518	2,944	2,540	4,921	14,050	2,880	4,486	18,819	10,248	305	347	102
Out Migration	1,789	986	4,087	2,676	6,167	15,134	3,884	4,485	12,809	10,601	331	618	183
Net Migration	-199	-468	-1,143	-136	-1,246	-1,084	-1,004	1	6,010	-353	-26	-271	-81

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
Outflow to AB	845	214	1,118	738	969	5,305	1,046	2,562	n/a	5,744	11	267	0
Inflow from AB	439	75	487	365	464	3,283	712	1,925	n/a	4,829	55	156	19
Net flow to AB	406	139	631	373	505	2,022	334	637	n/a	915	-44	111	-19

[1] Estimates of non-permanent residents (NPRs) represent the number of "...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them.

Non-permanent residents (NPR) include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students."

Source: Statistics Canada

TABLE 5: ALBERTA MIGRATION BY QUARTER										
Quarter	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total
	In	Out	Net Interprovincial Migration	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net International Migration*	Total Net Migration
2007										
Jan-Mar	18,625	13,900	**4,725**	4,015	4,227	1,237	500	645	**7,150**	**11,875**
Apr-Jun	21,947	17,270	**4,677**	5,595	5,840	1,637	568	1,137	**10,367**	**15,044**
Jul-Sep	26,228	24,023	**2,205**	6,171	5,034	3,360	727	1,079	**8,197**	**10,402**
Oct-Dec	15,614	13,579	**2,035**	5,085	2,573	1,945	543	452	**5,622**	**7,657**
Total	**82,414**	**68,772**	**13,642**	**20,866**	**17,674**	**8,179**	**2,338**	**3,313**	**31,336**	**44,978**
2008										
Jan-Mar	18,572	14,710	**3,862**	5,352	4,046	1,633	501	486	**7,750**	**11,612**
Apr-Jun	24,023	16,808	**7,215**	7,196	7,255	1,902	536	820	**12,833**	**20,048**
Jul-Sep	22,732	20,075	**2,657**	6,455	7,722	3,564	764	1,080	**10,929**	**13,586**
Oct-Dec	15,137	11,026	**4,111**	5,201	4,553	2,021	559	454	**7,628**	**11,739**
Total	**80,464**	**62,619**	**17,845**	**24,204**	**23,576**	**9,120**	**2,360**	**2,840**	**39,140**	**56,985**
2009										
Jan-Mar	18,711	14,026	**4,685**	5,764	4,476	1,495	488	487	**8,744**	**13,429**
Apr-Jun	18,658	16,927	**1,731**	7,739	2,657	1,560	497	822	**9,161**	**10,892**
Jul-Sep	16,263	18,283	**-2,020**	7,585	2,281	3,641	775	1,080	**6,530**	**4,510**
Oct-Dec	9,436	11,638	**-2,202**	5,929	-1,511	1,989	555	454	**2,328**	**126**
Total	**63,068**	**60,874**	**2,194**	**27,017**	**7,903**	**8,685**	**2,315**	**2,843**	**26,763**	**28,957**
2010										
Jan-Mar	15,008	14,860	**148**	6,762	-125	1,470	485	487	**5,169**	**5,317**
Apr-Jun	17,251	16,448	**803**	9,729	-770	1,531	494	822	**7,756**	**8,559**
Jul-Sep	21,702	20,547	**1,155**	9,485	-1,869	3,620	772	1,080	**4,304**	**5,459**
Oct-Dec	16,072	13,562	**2,510**	6,667	-6,794	2,003	556	454	**-2,232**	**278**
Total	**70,033**	**65,417**	**4,616**	**32,643**	**-9,558**	**8,624**	**2,307**	**2,843**	**14,997**	**19,613**
2011										
Jan-Mar	20,556	15,281	**5,275**	5,744	-558	1,479	486	487	**3,708**	**8,983**
Apr-Jun	23,715	18,995	**4,720**	8,290	1,233	1,538	494	822	**8,313**	**13,033**
Jul-Sep	23,974	20,838	**3,136**	8,619	2,295	3,642	772	1,080	**7,580**	**10,716**
Oct-Dec	18,819	12,809	**6,010**	8,305	105	2,011	556	454	**6,297**	**12,307**
Total	**87,064**	**67,923**	**19,141**	**30,958**	**3,075**	**8,670**	**2,308**	**2,843**	**25,898**	**45,039**

* Includes NPRs